

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A device comprising:
an elongate member including at least one electrode mounted thereon; and
a tip member extending distally from a distal end of said elongate member, said tip member comprising a tapered portion tapering distally and a blunt end portion at a distal end of said tapered portion, wherein said tip member is resiliently flexible.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member further comprises a barrel portion at a proximal end of said tip member and wherein said tapered portion extends distally from a distal end of said barrel portion.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein said barrel portion is substantially cylindrical in shape.
4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein said elongate member distal end has a greater diameter or minimum width than the diameter of said barrel portion, wherein a liquid silicone rubber adhesive is used to adhere said tip member to said elongate member, and wherein said liquid silicone rubber adhesive is used to form a tapered region in a gap formed by said elongate member distal end and said barrel portion.
5. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein said barrel portion is about 0.4 mm in length.
6. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein said barrel portion is about 0.45 mm in diameter.
7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tapered portion is substantially frusto-conical in shape.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein said tapered portion tapers continuously.
9. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7, wherein the proximal-to-distal length of said tapered portion is about 0.76 mm.
10. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein said diameter of said tapered portion decreases from about 0.45 mm at a proximal end of said tapered portion to about 0.2 mm at said distal end of said tapered portion.
11. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the angle between notional diametrically opposed sides of said tapered portion is about 18.9°.
12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said blunt end portion has a part-ellipsoidal shape.
13. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said blunt end portion has a part-spherical shape.
14. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member is integral with said elongate member.
15. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member is mounted on said distal end of said elongate member.
16. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member includes a lumen therein.
17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein elongated member includes a lumen therein for allowing a stiffening element to be inserted through said elongate member and for allowing a distal end of said stiffening element extends into said lumen in said tip member.
18. (Original) The device of claim 17, further comprising said stiffening element inserted through said elongate member and into said tip member.

19. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device has a shape and size that allows said device to be inserted in a human cochlea.

20. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member has substantially uniform bending stress distribution in an axial direction.

21. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said tip member is adhered to said elongate member using a liquid silicone rubber adhesive.

22. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said electrode is part of a means for applying a tissue stimulation.

23. (Original) A tip member comprising:

a barrel portion;

a tapered portion at a distal end of said barrel portion, said tapered portion tapering distally; and

a blunt end portion at a distal end of said tapered portion, wherein said tip member has a substantially uniform bending stress distribution in an axial direction and wherein said tip member has a shape and size that allows said tip member to be inserted in a human cochlea.

24. (Original) A method for making a device comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an elongate member; and

(b) mounting a tip member on said elongate member, wherein said tip member comprises a barrel portion, a tapered portion tapering distally from at distal end of said barrel portion and a blunt end portion at a distal end of said tapered portion, wherein said tip member has a substantially uniform bending stress distribution in an axial direction and wherein said tip member has a shape and size that allows said tip member to be inserted in a human cochlea.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein step (a) comprises adhering said tip member to said elongate member using a liquid silicone rubber adhesive.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said elongate member distal end has a greater diameter or minimum width than the diameter of said barrel portion, and wherein said method further comprises using said liquid silicone adhesive to form a tapered region in a gap formed by said elongate member distal end and said barrel portion.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said elongate member includes at least one electrode mounted thereon.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said electrode is part of a means for applying a tissue stimulation.